UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/85
S/25280
11 February 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 February 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by His Excellency, Mr. Ilija Djukic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the statement of His Excellency Mr. Warren Christopher, Secretary of State of the United States of America (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia concerning the statement of the Secretary of State of the United States of America

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia welcomes the decision of the United States of America to engage actively and directly in the current peace negotiations regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We consider it very significant that the United States strongly supports the efforts through the Vance-Owen negotiations. Yugoslavia has already supported the plan of Mr. Vance and Lord Owen as the most complete and realistic framework for achieving a just and lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite certain shortcomings that can be overcome through negotiations.

We are particularly pleased that the United States shares the long-held Yugoslav position that the only way to end this conflict is through negotiations and that the settlement of the crisis cannot be imposed, but can only be reached by the full agreement of the three Bosnian sides - Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

Yugoslavia also welcomes the active involvement in the peace negotiations of the Russian Federation, which like the United States, has strong historical ties with the peoples of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I wish to recall that as early as 30 May 1992, the Serbian leadership proposed that the United States and the Russian Federation be directly involved in the resolution of the crisis in order to avert the onset of bloodshed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regrettably, the statement of the Secretary of State, Mr. Christopher, contains one-sided qualifications and certain allegations directed primarily against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia.

It is astonishing, unacceptable and even discouraging that Yugoslavia and Serbia are threatened with the further tightening of sanctions and political pressure, particularly since it is well known that Yugoslavia and its Republics, Serbia and Montenegro, played a crucial role in Geneva in facilitating the progress in the peace talks, and that we have remained committed to such a policy of peace, which we also confirmed here, in New York. Our peace efforts have been repeatedly commended by the Secretary-General, the Co-Chairmen and in the deliberations in the Security Council.

Since there is no alternative to political settlement, Yugoslavia is prepared to continue to play its role and use its influence so that the Vance-Owen plan will be accepted through peace negotiations with all three

sides. In the same vein, equal pressure should be brought to bear on all sides that instigate armed conflicts in the territory of the former Yugoslavia so that they cease hostilities and accept political negotiations as the only way to resolve the conflicts.

In that connection, we have to point out that Croatia's aggression on the United Nations Protected Areas inhabited predominantly by the Serbs has to be stopped and resolution 802 (1993), as well as other relevant resolutions of the Security Council, fully and immediately implemented, since this aggression directly jeopardizes all peace efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina.